

## World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel Holds First Meeting

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(New York City, March 31, 2004) — The first meeting of the World Trade Center Expert Technical Review Panel will take place today. The panel will examine the EPA Indoor Air Residential Cleanup Program and consider how best to conduct an apartment re-sampling program that will yield scientifically sound data.

“The panel’s input will be tremendously helpful as EPA continues to work to reduce the risks to New York City area residents and workers. I am pleased that a panel of government, academic and other non-government experts will address these important matters,” said Dr. Paul Gilman, EPA’s Science Advisor and Assistant Administrator for Research and Development. Dr. Gilman chairs the panel.

All panel meetings will be held in New York, are open to the public and will provide opportunities for the public to provide written and oral comments. Throughout this process, EPA will brief interested members of the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut delegations and responsible Congressional committees.

Today, Mr. Pat Evangelista, Coordinator of the New York City Response and Recovery Operation from EPA’s Manhattan-based regional office, will provide panelists with an overview of the indoor cleanup program. Mr. Matthew Lorber, Senior Staff Scientist with EPA’s Washington, DC-based National Center for Environmental Assessment, will present a Draft Re-sampling Protocol to the panel, followed by the panel’s discussion of the proposed re-sampling program. The panel will hear comments from every member of the public wishing to provide oral comments; the panel also will accept written comments from the public.

Over the next year, the panel will review post-cleaning verification sampling conducted in apartments included in EPA’s indoor cleanup program to verify recontamination has not occurred from central heating and air conditioning systems. Also in that period of time, the panel will review the *World Trade Center Residential Confirmation Cleaning Study*, which concluded that the cleaning methods used in EPA’s indoor cleanup program were effective and indicated that asbestos was an appropriate surrogate for which to test for other indoor air contaminants of concern.

The panel will continue discussion of the draft re-sampling proposal to evaluate the incidence of recontamination in apartments cleaned in the EPA cleanup effort around the WTC site at its next meeting on April 12.

Within 24 months, the panel will identify areas where the health registry could be enhanced to allow better tracking of post-exposure risks by workers and residents. The panel will review and synthesize the ongoing work by the federal, state and local governments and private entities to determine the characteristics of the WTC plume and where it was dispersed, including the geographic extent of EPA and other entities’ monitoring and testing, and recommend any additional evaluations for consideration by EPA and other public agencies.

For additional information, such as an overview of the scope of work, background documents and data under review by the panel, written testimony submitted by the public, meeting notes, future meeting dates, the panel’s operating principles, etc., visit [www.epa.gov/wtc/panel](http://www.epa.gov/wtc/panel).